

a folded, resilient, annular ring having a first pair of loops extending in one direction and a second pair of loops extending in the opposite direction, said first and second pairs of loops connected together, and

a tubular graft connected to said ring, wherein said tubular graft has a pair of free ends [and an annular ring is connected to only one of said free ends] one of said free ends being more resilient than the other of said free ends.

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Please amend claim 32 as follows:

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32. (Three Times Amended) A prosthesis for insertion within a body passage comprising:

a first section including a resiliently deformable first annular element and a [non-resilient] first tubular graft that is less resilient than said first annular element, said first tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, said first annular element connected to one of said free ends; and

a second section axially aligned with said first section, said second section including a resiliently deformable second annular element, said second annular element of said second section adapted to communicate with and resiliently engage an internal surface of said [non-resilient] first tubular graft of said first section so as to adjustably fix the second section within the first tubular graft.

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Remarks:

In an interview conducted with an Examiner by telephone on July 20, 1999, each of the references cited by the Examiner were discussed as were each of the independent claims. In addition, the refusal to consider the information disclosure statement was also considered and the § 609 of the M.P.E.P. was discussed.